For Aug 11, Bd Mtng - Policy Committee

POLICY STATEMENT FOR DEVELOPING GLOBAL COMPETENCE

Nebraska students need high-quality learning opportunities and experiences to prepare them for successful participation in a global and interconnected world. Our students need to know and understand the world in which they live. With greater knowledge and understanding of the connections among local, state, national, and international issues and through a better understanding of themselves and others, our students will be better prepared to address global challenges and act competently, respectfully, and responsibly.

For purposes of this policy statement, global competence is defined as the capacity—the knowledge, skills, and dispositions—to understand, analyze, and act on global opportunities and challenges within the local, state, national, and international realms.

The world in which Nebraska students are being educated includes increasing interaction and interdependence among people, states, and nations on multiple levels—personal, economic, scientific, and political. Therefore, our students must be prepared to do the following:

- Investigate the world beyond their current environment
- Recognize their own and others' perspectives
- Communicate their ideas effectively with diverse cultures
- Translate their ideas into appropriate action to improve conditions

Quality instruction for global competence includes, but is not limited to:

- Analyzing engaging topics of global and local significance
- Integrating multiple disciplines to investigate global issues
- Designing and implementing performance assessments that demonstrate global competence
- Globalizing the context for learning to improve critical reasoning skills
- Comparing and contrasting universal themes
- Exploring the roots, growth, and expansion of global knowledge
- Learning through international perspectives and collaboration
- Finding and expanding opportunities for optimizing the global experiences and competencies of others

Therefore, it is the intent of the State Board of Education that Nebraska becomes a leading force for creating a global understanding of community by placing an emphasis on the integration of global education throughout multiple disciplines. The integration of global studies throughout multiple disciplines is an approach that provides equitable opportunities to enable students to experience other cultures and develop a broader understanding of global opportunities and challenges.

Education for global competence will require significant changes in order to create the capacity for global education and may include the following:

- Designing and supporting professional development programs with a global focus
- Finding new ways to foster student intercultural exchanges
- Expanding the teaching of world languages to include PreK-16
- Increasing teacher knowledge through professional development and exchange/travel opportunities
- Providing classroom resources for integrating global competence into the curriculum
- Collaborating with postsecondary institutions to support PreK-16 initiatives
- Utilizing local, state, and national resources with emphasis on leaders who have the expertise to provide effective educational experiences
- Using technology to bridge geographic, linguistic, ideological, and cultural barriers
- Creating models for integrating global education into existing classes across the curriculum—e.g., humanities, social sciences, science, technology, world languages, mathematics, career education—as part of an essential education
- Taking advantage of opportunities for community participation, including business representatives, government officials, educators, and others who are experienced in interaction with other cultures and languages
- Designing and employing standards-based curricula where self-directed learners are able to demonstrate and apply 21st century knowledge and skills through a balance of assessments

High performing nations are systematically implementing policies and practices that advance all of their students' ability to perform in the global economy, pursuing excellence and equity in a global era. We must do the same to ensure the next generation is able to compete and cooperate in our interconnected world.

This policy statement is a reflection of the Nebraska State Board of Education's strength of commitment to provide every student the opportunity to become globally competent.